

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Laura Archiniegas on 01/12/2011. **Claims 12-15, 17-19 and 22 are allowed.**

Please amend the claims as they appear below:

Please replace Claims 15 and 22 as follows:

Claim 15. A process for inactivating white blood cells which may be contained in a fluid comprising:

(a) adding riboflavin at concentration between 50-500 μ M to the fluid containing white blood cells; and

(b) exposing the fluid of step (a) to light in the UVB range to activate the riboflavin and cause damage to the nucleic acid of the white blood cells thereby substantially maintaining the damage to the nucleic acids of the white blood cells, wherein the inactivated white blood cells of step (b) are unable to reactivate upon storage or infusion into a patient.

Claim 22. A process for providing pathogen-reduced blood or blood components comprising:

(a) damaging the nucleic acid of any pathogenic white blood cells which may be present with the blood or blood components by adding riboflavin at a concentration between 50-500 μM to the blood or blood components; and

(b) exposing the blood or blood components of step (a) to light in the UVB range or visible light to activate the riboflavin to fragment the nucleic acid of the pathogenic white blood cells, wherein the pathogenic white blood cells of step (b) are unable to reactivate upon storage or infusion into a patient.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. While Truitt et al. (J. Immunology, 163 (9): 5145-5156 (1999)) teach a method of irradiating splenic T cells with UVA (400 nm–320 nm) in the presence of psoralen to limit the proliferation of donor T cells *in vivo* and decrease the risk of GVHD (graft-vs-host disease), the Examiner has found no teaching or suggestion in the prior art directed to a process for inactivating white blood cells which may be contained in a fluid comprising: (a) adding riboflavin at concentration between 50-500 μM to the fluid containing white blood cells; and (b) exposing the fluid of step (a) to light in the UVB range to activate the riboflavin and cause damage to the nucleic acid of the white blood cells thereby substantially maintaining the damage to the nucleic acids of the white blood cells, wherein the inactivated white blood cells of step (b) are unable to reactivate upon storage or infusion into a patient; and a process for providing pathogen-reduced blood or blood components comprising: (a) damaging the nucleic acid of any pathogenic white blood

cells which may be present with the blood or blood components by adding riboflavin at a concentration between 50-500 μ M to the blood or blood components; and (b) exposing the blood or blood components of step (a) to light in the UVB range or visible light to activate the riboflavin to fragment the nucleic acid of the pathogenic white blood cells, wherein the pathogenic white blood cells of step (b) are unable to reactivate upon storage or infusion into a patient. Therefore, the claimed invention is novel and unobvious over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jae W. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-9949. The examiner can normally be reached between 9:00 to 5:30 on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manjunath Rao can be reached on 571-272-0939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JAE W LEE/
Examiner, Art Unit 1656

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